



Lebanese American University

University Student Assistance Program (USP I)
Grant Number 268-G-00-10-00053-00

SEMI-ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

REPORTING PERIOD:

April 2015 – September 2015

SUBMITTED TO:

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I. Project Summary

1. Key Achievements for this quarter:
 - a. In spring 2015, 15 scholars were on the Distinguished List (semester GPA of 3.5 or above), and 8 scholars on the Honors List (semester GPA between 3.2 and 3.5).
 - b. 12 scholars have a Major GPA above 3 and all have a Major GPA above 2.
 - c. 13 scholars have a Cumulative GPA above 3 and all have a Cumulative GPA above 2.
 - d. In fall 2014, 9 scholars completed their academic plans and graduated.
 - e. In spring 2015, 15 scholars completed their academic plans and graduated.
 - f. There are no scholars on probation.

II. Detailed Progress:

A. Advising and Registration:

In April and May the scholars of the USP 1 cohort were advised and registered for their Summer 1, Summer 2 and Fall 2015 courses. Summer 1 2015 classes began on June 4 and scholars completed their registration at the start of the term. The term ended on July 11. Summer 2, 2015 classes began on July 22 and scholars completed their registration at the start of the term. The term ended on August 25. Fall 2015 classes began on September 2 and scholars completed their registration at the start of the semester. Currently 16 USP 1 scholars are registered for the Fall 2015 semester. The scholars have been in regular contact with their academic coordinators, have been receiving proper advice in relation to registration, course load and best selection of courses and are progressing according to the graduation plans prepared for them.

B. Monitoring of scholars:

As mentioned in the previous Quarterly Progress Report, a plan has been devised for the monitoring of scholars in order to ensure that they will maintain good academic standing and graduate on time. This plan is made up of multiple stakeholders who are working with the scholars in order to ensure their well being.

a. OCE:

The Outreach and Civic Engagement at the Lebanese American University, headed by the Assistant Vice President who oversees the execution of the program and ensures successful implementation, supervises orientation, enrichment activities, and media coverage, and works closely with the academic coordinators on USP curricular progress. He is assisted by the Central Academic Coordinator for USP programs.

b. Student mentors:

Each scholar has been assigned a student mentor whose main job is to make sure that the scholar is doing well scholastically and that he/she is not facing any problem. The student mentor is a junior or senior student of the same major who has demonstrated leadership skills. He/she helps the scholar in issues related to his/her every day life: dorms and adjustment on campus. (Refer to appendix 1).

c. Academic coordinators:

All scholars have academic coordinators. Each academic coordinator is mainly responsible for:

- Advising students before registration on the course load to carry each semester;
- Advising students in their courses and class work;

- Monitoring the academic progress of students;
- Helping the students to cope with academic challenges.

d. Student support/tutoring:

Whenever deemed necessary, USP scholars receive support and tutoring from LAU student support centers such as the Cooperative Learning Center, the Writing Center, and the Academic Computer Center in addition to the counselors and professional career and academic advising coordinators in the Deans of Students' Offices in both Byblos and Beirut.

e. Academic Progress:

In May 2015 the spring 2015 semester came to an end and academic coordinators completed sending the third and last set of progress reports for the semester. Progress reports were also sent during and after the Summer 1 term and the Summer 2 term. All reports were studied and, when needed, proper advisory action was taken. The reports and the grades demonstrated that the USP I scholars, initial cohort and new cohort included, are performing very well and progressing normally. It is important to note that currently, in the combined USP I cohorts of 16 scholars, 1 scholar has a Major GPA of 4.0, 12 scholars have a Major GPA of 3.0 or higher, all scholars have a Major GPA of 2.0 or above, 13 scholars have a Cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher and all scholars have a Cumulative GPA above 2.0. There are no scholars on probation.

Summary of graduating scholars:

At the end spring 2015 semester, the LAU USP I program gave yet another generation of graduates. Indeed 15 students completed all the requirements for graduation. All 15 have met the terms of the USAID grant. Below is a list of graduating scholars:

ID Number	Major	Minor	Graduation Date
201101***	Civil Engineering		Spring 2015
201102***	Mechanical Engineering		Spring 2015
201102***	Education		Spring 2015
201102***	Education		Spring 2015

ID Number	Major	Minor	Graduation Date
201102***	Education		Spring 2015
201102***	Nutrition		Spring 2015
201103***	Mechanical Engineering		Spring 2015
201102***	Civil Engineering		Spring 2015
201102***	Nursing	Psychology	Spring 2015
201102***	Education		Spring 2015
201101***	Computer Engineering		Spring 2015
201103***	Civil Engineering		Spring 2015
201102***	Computer Engineering	Computer Science	Spring 2015
201102***	Civil Engineering		Spring 2015
201103***	Mechanical Engineering		Spring 2015

f. Enrichment Activities:

1. Clubs & Enrichment Activities

Activity	Date	Description	Names of Participants	Number of Participants
"Mediation & Conflict Resolution among Healthcare Workers" session	1-Apr-15	The Nursing Club organized a session about "Mediation & Conflict resolution among Healthcare Workers".	201102***	USP I: (1M)
Eat For A Cause	1-Apr-15	The Nutrition Club organized the "Eat for a Cause" event at LAU Beirut Campus. The Nutrition club set up stands offering healthy food for all faculty and students. Moreover, they raised awareness by distributing flyers that explain how one can lead a healthy lifestyle.	201102*** 201305***	USP I: (2F)
VIP Visit In The US Embassy	1-Apr-15	The Outreach and Civic Engagement Unit coordinated with the US Embassy, to invite scholars who are accomplished academics and leaders to meet with a VIP from the US Embassy.	201304***	USP I: (1M)
Science Fair - Beirut	2-Apr-15	The Lebanese American University Organized the Science Fair whereby High School students present their projects to LAU students, faculty and staff.	201304***	USP I: (1F)

Activity	Date	Description	Names of Participants	Number of Participants
Scouting For A Short Film	4-Apr-15	The USP I scholar participated in a Scouting For A Short Film is a student film by an NDU student.	201102***	USP I: (1F)
Why With Why Against Civil Marriage	7-Apr-15	The Debate Club organized an event that covers the topic of civil marriage.	201102*** 201102***	USP I: (2F)
Heritage Day	8-Apr-15	'Heritage Day' is an event organized by the UNESCO club, through which all students are invited to represent, in any form of art, some of the many cultures present in Lebanon.	201102*** 201102*** 201304*** 201305*** 201304*** 201102*** 201304*** 201305*** 201102***	USP I: (8F; 1M)
Career Fair	15-Apr-15	The Career Guidance Office at LAU organized the Career Fair. During this event students were able to meet with prospective employers and give them their CVs.	201304*** 201305*** 201304*** 201102*** 201304*** 201305***	USP I: (5F; 1M)
Spring Fundraising Event	15-Apr-15	The Hospitality Club organized a Fundraising event in the LAU Beirut Campus.	201305***	USP I: (1F)
Basic Studio Skills Workshop - Beirut	16-Apr-15	The Outreach and Civic Engagement Unit organized a "Basic Studio Skills" workshop for the USP scholars. The workshop was presented by USP I scholar 201304***.	201304*** 201305*** 201304*** 201304*** 201305***	USP I: (4F; 1M)
Basic Studio Skills Workshop - Byblos	17-Apr-15		201304*** 201305***	USP I: (1F; 1M)
Armenian Commemoration	20-Apr-15	The Armenian Club organized an event to commemorate the Armenian genocide.	201101*** 201102*** 201103*** 201102***	USP I: (2F; 2M)
Be Sun Smart	20-Apr-15	The LAU Health Services organized an event called 'Be Sun Smart' to educate students about the dangers of UV rays.	201102*** 201102***	USP I: (2F)
Cedars Day	20-Apr-15	Cedar's Day event was organized by the Cedar Club in LAU.	201101*** 201103*** 201102***	USP I: (2F; 1M)

Activity	Date	Description	Names of Participants	Number of Participants
Deloitte & Touche ME Company Presentation	20-Apr-15	Deloitte & Touche ME gave LAU students an informative session about themselves through a presentation.	201102***	USP I: (1F)
Spring Beats	20-Apr-15	The Event Organization Club organized an event to welcome the spring semester with music and Joy. The event was titled 'Spring Beats'.	201102*** 201102*** 201304*** 201305*** 201304***	USP I: (4F; 1M)
Workshop about Civic Engagement and Entrepreneurial Training - Beirut	20-Apr-15	The OCE Department organized the Civic Engagement and Entrepreneurial Training in the Beirut Campus. The presentation was given by a trainer from KAFALAT, who is an expert in entrepreneurial activities. The Main Purpose of this session was for the scholars to be able to identify the characteristics of a successful entrepreneur and how to develop entrepreneurial skills.	201305*** 201304*** 201304*** 201305*** 201304*** 201304*** 201305***	USP I: (4F; 3M)
Ace Your Interview	21-Apr-15	Bloom Bank hosted a workshop at LAU titled 'Ace Your Interview'. The aim of the Workshop was to help students prepare for any career interview that they will have to attend after they graduate.	201305***	USP I: (1F)
LAU Got Talent	21-Apr-15	The Accounting Club at LAU organized the LAU Got Talents event where LAU students who were accepted in the auditions have their final performances in front of the juries. Many USP scholars were candidates and many other attended the event for supporting their colleagues.	201102*** 201102*** 201304*** 201305***	USP I: (4F)
Building Safety & Fire Prevention Maneuver	22-Apr-15	The Safety Awareness Club in Byblos organized the Building Safety and Fire Prevention event in collaboration with the Lebanese Civil Defense, whereby they demonstrated what to do in case of an emergency, thus spreading awareness.	201102*** 201304*** 201304*** 201305***	USP I: (3F; 1M)

Activity	Date	Description	Names of Participants	Number of Participants
Career Fair	22-Apr-15	The Career Guidance Office at LAU organized the Career Fair. During this event students were able to meet with prospective employers and give them their CVs.	201103***	USP I: (1M)
Clothes Raise Campaign	22-Apr-15	The nursing club collaborated with the World Human Fund NGO to raise clothes for those in need by asking undergraduates to donate.	201102***	USP I: (1M)
HORECA	22-Apr-15	HORECA 2015 is the Levant's largest exhibition, held at BEIL, for the food service and hospitality industry. Running annually, it's the ultimate platform for exhibitors and visitors to meet in a Business-focused environment. LAU nutrition students were a significant part in the exhibition and it was a networking opportunity for them and for the industries to test their new ideas and innovations.	201102***	USP I: (1F)
General Reception	22-Apr-15	The Computer Science and Mathematics department held a general reception for students.	201304***	USP I: (1F)
SOE Research Seminar Series	22-Apr-15	The School of Engineering hosted "Developing an Energy Policy for the Electricity Sector: The Case of Lebanon" seminar for undergraduates to discuss and learn about how the electricity sector can be developed in Lebanon.	201103***	USP I: (1M)
Energy Day	23-Apr-15	The School of Engineering gave a lecture about sources of energy.	201103***	USP I: (1M)
Spring Into Health	23-Apr-15	The LAU Health Services organized 'Spring Into Health' event to encourage students to become healthier.	201102*** 201102*** 201102***	USP I: (2F; 1M)

Activity	Date	Description	Names of Participants	Number of Participants
Workshop about Civic Engagement and Entrepreneurial Training - Byblos	23-Apr-15	The OCE Department organized the Civic Engagement and Entrepreneurial Training in the Beirut Campus. The presentation was given by a trainer from KAFALAT, who is an expert in entrepreneurial activities. The Main Purpose of this session was for scholars to be able to identify the characteristics of a successful entrepreneur and how to develop entrepreneurial skills.	201305***	USP I: (1F)
NutriShape	24-Apr-15	The Nutrition Club organized the NutriShape event to spread the awareness about the various ways in which one can stay healthy and in shape.	201102*** 201102*** 201102***	USP I: (2F; 1M)
Indian Vibes	27-Apr-15	The Photography Club organized the Indian Vibes event whereby students were invited to wear Indian costumes and take pictures in the Indian designed Photo booth.	201102*** 201305***	USP I: (2F)
Engineering Day	27-Apr-15	Engineering Day is an event organized by the SOE.	201103***	USP I: (1M)
Mini Football Tournament	27-Apr-15	The Mini Football Tournament is an annual event organized by the UNESCO club in collaboration with the Dean of Students Office.	201304***	USP I: (1F)
Piano Masterclass	29-Apr-15	The Lebanese National Higher Conservatory of Music organized a Piano Masterclass taught by a professional pianist.	201304***	USP I: (1M)
OCEAN 2015	29-Apr-15	The Outreach and Civic Engagement Unit at the Lebanese American University organizes the "Outreach and Cultural Exchange Across Nations"-OCEAN day at LAU Byblos. This is an International Day in which the OCE invites embassies of top study abroad destinations to LAU campus to present to the LAU community the different opportunities available in their countries in study abroad and civic engagement.	201103***	USP I: (1M)

Activity	Date	Description	Names of Participants	Number of Participants
ECE Student Forum	30-Apr-15	The Electrical and Computer Engineering Department organized a Student Forum for the engineering students.	201102***	USP I: (1F)
Project Management Workshop	30-Apr-15	The Outreach and Civic Engagement Unit at the Lebanese American University organized a "Project Management Workshop" for the USP scholars in Byblos.	201305*** 201305***	USP I: (2F)
You@LAU	1-May-15	The Dean of Students Office organized an orientation of high school students. During which each department send representatives to answer any questions the students might have.	201102***	USP I: (1F)
Design Workshops Exhibition / Science Knowledge Contest	4-May-15	Department of Design - Graphic Design Program organized a Design Workshop.	201102***	USP I: (1F)
Science Fair 2015 - Byblos	4-May-15	The Lebanese American University Organized the Science Fair whereby High school students present their projects to LAU students, faculty and staff.	201102***	USP I: (1F)
Design and Thinking Innovation	5-May-15	The School of Engineering organized a workshop titled 'Design and Thinking Innovation'.	201103***	USP I: (1M)
6th Annual NGO Fair	6-May-15	The OCE Department at LAU organized the 6th NGO Fair. The theme of the NGO Fair is "Together For A Better Society: Public-Private Partnership". It was held under the patronage and the presence of the Minister of Health.	201305*** 201102*** 201304*** 201304*** 201305*** 201304*** 201305*** 201102***	USP I: (6F; 2M)
Library Open House Event	6-May-15	The Library at LAU organized an Open House event that was held in the Business Building. The event encouraged students to exchange books and held a variety of games through which winners were awarded prizes.	201305***	USP I: (1F)
Residence Hall Dinner	7-May-15	The DOS office organized the Annual Residence Hall Dinner.	201305***	USP I: (1F)

Activity	Date	Description	Names of Participants	Number of Participants
Students Audition	7-May-15	The Lebanese National Conservatory of Music organized a student audition.	201304***	USP I: (1M)
Value of Volunteerism	7-May-15	A presentation was given about the Value of Volunteerism.	201102***	USP I: (1M)
Nanomaterial Symposium	8-May-15	The Chemistry Department held a Nanomaterial Symposium.	201305***	USP I: (1F)
Poetry Symposium	8-May-15	The Arabic Department and USP V scholar held a Poetry Symposium at LAU Beirut. USP scholars from different cohorts' attended to support him.	201305*** 201304*** 201305***	USP I: (2F; 1M)
Teachers Workshop	9-May-15	The AFDC organized a workshop about the integration of environmental education through school academic subjects.	201102***	USP I: (1F)
Spring Fiesta	9-May-15	The UNESCO Club & The Dean Of Students' Office collaborated to organize the spring fiesta at LAU Beirut campus. They welcomed spring with an outdoor party, attracting over 5,000 visitors of all ages and interests for games, food stands, live music concerts and bungee jumping.	201305***	USP I: (1F; 1M)
	10-May-15		201304***	
Capstone Design Course Presentations	11-May-15	The School of Engineering organized a presentation about the capstone design course.	201102***	USP I: (1F)
Global Classroom International Model United Nations	14 to 16 - May-15	Model United Nations is a realistic simulation of the UN General Assembly, UN Security Council, or other multilateral body, which introduces students to the world of diplomacy, negotiation, and decision making. USP I scholar 201102*** has been part of the GC LAU MUN for the past four years as a trainer and a chair. This led to him being chosen to be the Assistant Director of the UN women committee.	201102*** 201102*** 201102*** 201102*** 201102***	USP I: (1F; 4M)
Volunteer In The Graduate's Iftar	10-Jul-15	The OCE Unit organized a celebratory Iftar for all USP graduates. Several USP scholars volunteered to ensure the Iftar's success.	201304***	USP I: (1M)

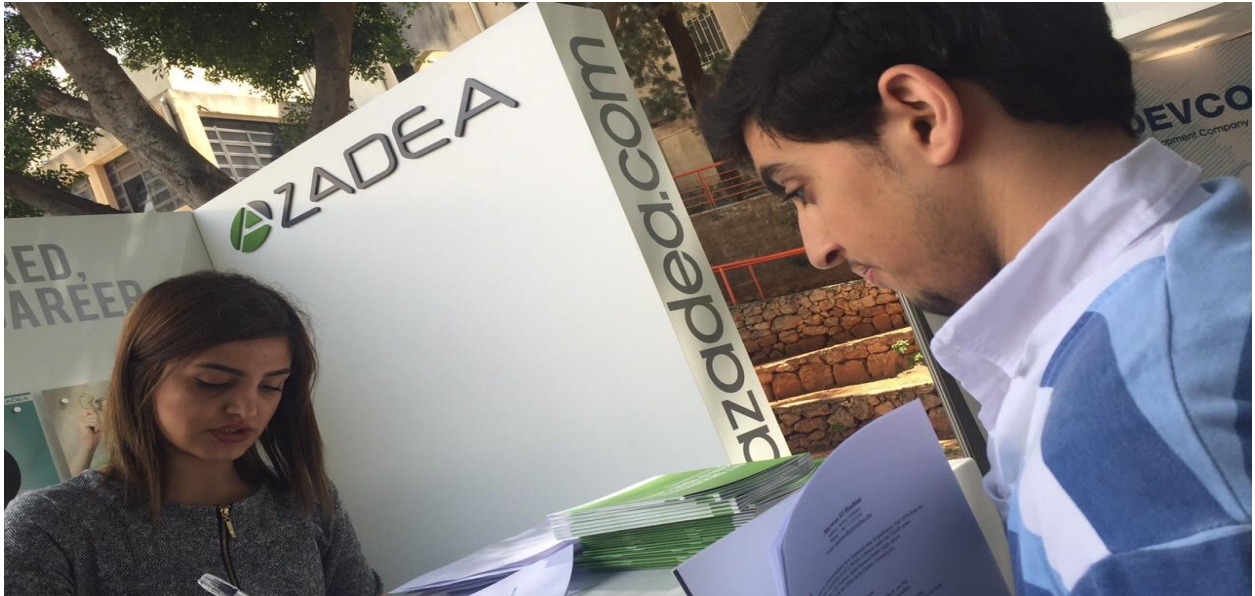
Activity	Date	Description	Names of Participants	Number of Participants
USP VI Career Counseling Workshop	27-Jul-15	USP VI Scholars were invited to the Lebanese American University, to attend the Career Counseling Workshop as a final step of their selection process. Several USP Scholars helped make the event successful by taking care of the events logistical aspects.	201304*** 201305***	USP I: (2F)
Town Hall Meeting	21-Aug-15	The Town Hall meetings were held so that scholars are able to get a clear overall picture of your rights and obligations; to get to meet face to face the USP team and for the scholars to have all their questions and concerns answered.	201100*** 201305*** 201304*** 201304*** 201102*** 201102*** 201102*** 201305*** 201304*** 201102*** 201305*** 201304*** 201102***	USP I: (8F; 5M)
Volunteering in USP VI Orientation	26-Aug-15	A warm welcome was given to 49 high-school graduates from towns across Lebanon on their first official day at LAU. They are the university's fifth cohort of students to receive a full scholarship under the USAID funded university scholarship program (USP). Several scholars participated in the event ensuring its success. They guided the newly admitted scholars through the process of registration.	201304*** 201102*** 201304***	USP I: (2F; 1M)
Life Style And Cardio Vascular Campaign	21-Sep-15	By the Lebanese American University.	201304***	USP I: (1M)
MMKN General Assembly	30-Sep-15	MMKN president held an information session for all students wishing to participate in the MMKN program, explaining what is expected of them and what they should expect, as well as answering any questions they have.	201305***	USP I: (1M)

Heritage Day



USP I scholar 201304 in a group picture as a Zaffeh in the heritage day***

Career Fair



USP I scholar 201304 applying for a company at the Career Fair***



USP I scholar 201305at the career fair***

Basic Studio Skills Workshop - Beirut



USP I scholar 201304 is giving the workshop to his colleagues***



USP I scholar 201305 attending the 'Basic Studio Skills' workshop***



USP I scholars 201304, 201305***and 201304*** attentively listening to USP I 201304******

Basic Studio Skills Workshop - Byblos



USP I scholar 201305 engaged in the 'Basic Studio Skills' Workshop***



USP I scholar 201304 listening to fellow peers opinions regarding the workshop***

Civic Engagement and Entrepreneurial Training - Beirut



USP I scholars 201304, 201304***, 201304***, 201304*** listening to the workshop***



USP I scholar 201305at the workshop***



USP I scholar 201305 attending the workshop***



All the USP scholars attending listening attentively to the trainer

Civic Engagement and Entrepreneurial Training - Byblos



USP I scholar 201305 attentively listening to the lecturer***

Indian Vibes



USP I scholar 201305taking a picture in the Indian Costume***

OCEAN 2015



USP I scholar 201103 organizing the OCEAN Day event***

Project Management Workshop – Byblos



USP I scholar 201305 engaged in the project management workshop***

6th Annual NGO Fair



*USP I scholar 201304*** discovering the NGO Fair*



*USP I scholar 201304*** attending the NGO Fair*



USP I scholars 201102 and 201102*** at the NGO Fair***



USP I scholar 201304 at the NGO Fair***



USP I scholar 201305at the Opening ceremony of the NGO Fair***

Residence Hall Dinner



USP I scholar 201305in a group picture at the Annual Residence Hall dinner***

Poetry Symposium



*USP I scholar 201305***supporting her USP colleagues*



*USP I scholar 201304*** in a group picture*

Spring Fiesta



USP I scholars enjoying the Spring Fiesta with their LAU colleagues



*USP I scholar 201305***at the Spring Fiesta*

Global Classrooms International Model United Nations



USP I scholar 201102 during the GCI-MUN***

Town Hall Meeting



USP I scholars 201100, 201305***, 201304***, 201304***, 201102***, 201102***, 201102***, 201305***, 201304***, 201102***, 201305***, 201304***and 201102***during the Town Hall meeting***

Life Style and Cardio Vascular Campaign



*USP I scholar 201304*** during the Life Style and Cardio Vascular Campaign*

MMKN General Assembly



*USP I scholar 201305*** with fellow peers at the MMKN General Assembly*

2.1 Global Classrooms LAU Model United Nations

The Lebanese American University is holding, this year, the 10th Global Classrooms LAU Model United Nations conference in partnership with the “United Nations Association” of the United States of America.

“Global Classrooms” LAU Model United Nations is a program that consists in providing knowledge and skill based training for students over 5 Saturdays at the LAU premises in the following areas:

- a. Conflict resolution skills including the art of coalition building, communications, negotiations, open debate and resolution writing as well as simulation exercises;
- b. Diplomatic skills with extensive knowledge about UN procedures and rules of diplomatic and protocol representation;
- c. Knowledge-based training in country demographic, economic, political and social profiles;
- d. Advocacy training in civic engagement and social service in order to better serve the civic society and the philanthropic causes in Lebanon.

The ultimate aim of the program is to make Lebanese and a selected number of Arab students, coming from diverse socio-economic and sectarian backgrounds, acknowledge each other's differences, think methodically and objectively about UN problems, accept diversity, and gain communications, negotiations and leadership skills as well as cognition about the global challenges facing the United Nations.

Grade 7 , 8 , 10 and 11 school students will act as ambassadors for different countries and tackle the problems of sustainable development, global terrorism, menacing epidemics, global poverty, the spread of weapons of mass destruction, and environmental and ecological threats. The power of argumentation will prevail over the argument of power and the culture of democracy, unleashing the creative energies of the students, will triumph over the traditional teaching methods implemented in most of the schools of Lebanon.

The launching of the project takes place every year in November, and it exceeds expectations in terms of enthusiastic receptivity of the stakeholders, principals, advisors, and coaches of more than 2602 students coming from more than 163 schools from all over Lebanon.

Many USP Scholars are involved in this program including the following USP I scholars

USP Scholar Name	GC LAU MUN Position
201102***	Logistics coordinator
201102***	Trainer and Chair
201102***	School Relations Coordinator
201102***	Logistics Coordinator
201102***	Trainer and Chair



USP I scholar 201102 with his colleagues in MUN***

2.2 LAU Model Arab League

Since 1983, the Model Arab League programs worldwide have offered high school and university students an extraordinary opportunity to learn, practice, and develop leadership skills. In the process, the participants deepen their knowledge and understanding of Arab social, economic, cultural, and political issues.

The Lebanese American University, in partnership with the "Hariri Foundation for Sustainable Human Development" (HFSHD) is implementing its fourth Model Arab League Conference in the region.

A team of LAU students will be training high-school students from all over Lebanon about practical leadership skills directly related to the social, economic, cultural and political issues Arab leaders and community have been facing.

Students gain invaluable first hand leadership experience and hands-on training through The Model Arab League's interactive learning process. They get familiarized with the application of time management skills, the use of parliamentary procedure, the dynamics of debating, writing and editing draft resolutions.

The program aims at the empowerment of Arab Youth, in the hope of them becoming the decision makers of tomorrow.

Throughout the year, students sit for 3 intensive training sessions at LAU Beirut and OLA center. By the end of the training, the now MAL delegates are prepared to take part in a two day Conference, where committees of the Arab League are simulated.

USP Scholar Name	LAU-MAL Position
201102***	School Relations Coordinator & Trainer



USP I scholar 201102 in a group picture with the high school students he trained***

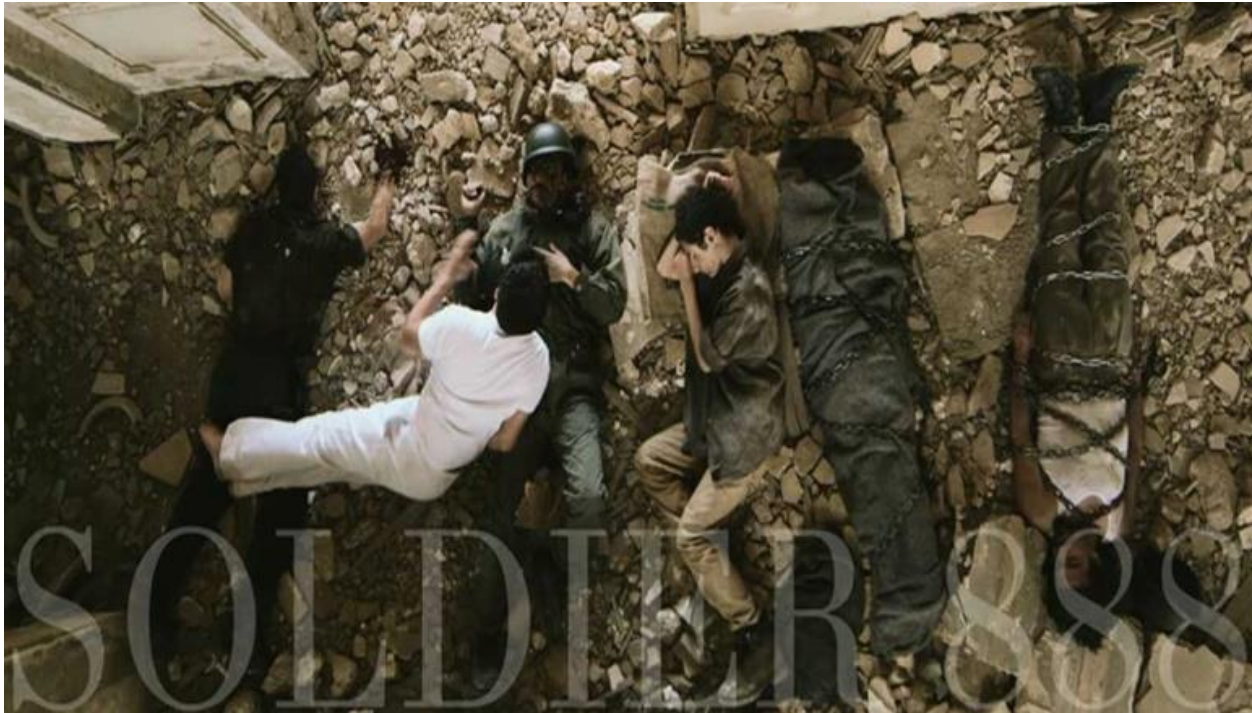
2.3 Success Stories

Short Film: 'Soldier 888' (Jun 20 & 22, 2015)

USP I scholar 201102*** and her colleagues participated in the 48 hour film competition held by the Filmopalooza International Film Festival. To compete, they used personal funding to write, direct, shoot and edit a short film. They called their film “Soldier 888”. Their hard work did not go unnoticed since the film “Soldier 888” won 8 awards in the festival:

- Best cinematography
- Best Sound design
- Best directing
- Best Special effects makeup
- Best Costumes
- Best film
- Audience choice award
- Best editing

The following is the link for the short film's page on Facebook:
<https://m.facebook.com/soldier888>



*The poster for the award winning short film "Soldier 888" with 201102*** lying in the middle*

New York MUN Delegates Training (May 2, 2015)

USP I scholar 201102*** has been training the New York delegation of the GC LAU Model United Nations. As a part of the training, he teaches the delegates ways to become diplomatic leaders. More specifically, he trains them on public speaking, negotiation skills and conflict resolution tactics. The most recent training session took place on Saturday the 2nd of May.



USP I scholar 201102 training the New York delegation for the GC LAU Model United Nations***

Highest GPA Award (May 7, 2015)

USP I scholar 201102*** received the Highest Average Award in the School of Nursing during the Honor Ceremony whereby he delivered the speech on behalf of the Alice Ramez Chaghouri School of Nursing. The Ceremony took place on the 7th of May. He is proud to have received this award for a second time in a row.



USP I scholar 201102 giving a speech during the honor ceremony***



USP I scholar 201102 receiving the highest GPA award***

Honor Society (May 7, 2015)

Honor Society ceremony is held so that Parents, friends, instructors, and university administrators can gather to recognize the academic efforts of outstanding LAU students. Students who have completed more than 24 credit hours with a GPA above 3.5 automatically become part of the honor society. During the Ceremony those students receive certificates of

recognition. Many USP I, II and III scholars took part in the Honor Society Ceremony whereby they received certificates for their outstanding GPA.



USP I scholar 201101 Receiving her certificate from the Dean of the School of Engineering***



USP I scholar 201103 receiving his certificate from the Dean of the School of Engineering***



USP I scholars from the school of Nursing taking part of the Honor Society Ceremony

Graduation Dinner (July 10, 2015)

The Outreach and Civic Engagement Unit at the Lebanese American University organized a celebratory Dinner for all USP I & II graduate scholars. The graduating scholars completed their degrees abiding by all the rules of the grants that they received. Several scholars from various cohorts helped make this event a success either by helping with the set up or by taking the role of ushers for the guests invited.



A group picture with USP I Graduates

USP VI Orientation (August 26, 2015)

A warm welcome was given to 49 high-school graduates from towns across Lebanon on their first official day at LAU. They are the university's fifth cohort of students to receive a full scholarship under the USAID funded University Scholarship Program (USP). Several USP I, II, III and V scholars participated in the event ensuring its success. They guided the newly admitted scholars through the process of registration and shared their stories helping the new USP VI recruits feel at home. The USAID program helped the formerly admitted scholars grow their spirit of volunteerism whereby their example will pave the way into the newly admitted 45 USP VI scholars, two new USP III, and two new USP V.



USP I new scholars 201304, 201304*** & 201102*** in a group picture with the newly admitted USP VI scholars***

Beach Cleaning Campaign (September 12, 2015)

LAU's Outreach and Civic Engagement Unit organized a beach cleaning campaign in collaboration with Operations Big Blue. Several USP scholars from the various cohorts banded together to clean the Ramla Bayda beach. In order to promote this environmental initiative the scholars dressed in the same green shirts, and attended a lecture by a big blue representative about the diverse marine life that is present in Lebanon and how they can preserve it. Awareness about this issue is not very popular amongst the current Lebanese population however with the help of campaigns such as this one, there is hope for change.



USP I scholar 201102 in a group picture with representatives from LAU's Outreach and Civic Engagement Unit during the beach cleaning campaign***

Emotional Intelligence Workshop (Beirut: September 18, 2015/ Byblos: September 21, 2015)

The Emotional Intelligence Workshop was organized by the Outreach and Civic Engagement unit at LAU. A representative of the Dean of students' and counselors' office presented to the USP I and USP II scholars the different aspects of emotional intelligence and what it entails. According to Daniel Goleman of the Harvard Business Review, "Although a certain degree of analytical and technical skill is a minimum requirement for success, studies indicate that emotional intelligence may be the key attribute that distinguishes outstanding performers from those who are merely adequate." The Workshop helps the scholars to become outstanding performers in their fields thus allowing them to have means to give back to their community.



USP I scholars 201102 and 201102*** during the Emotional Intelligence workshop***

USP Mentorship Program Workshop (Beirut: September 21, 2015/Byblos: September 22, 2015)

Mentors for USP scholars are chosen carefully based on the following set of criteria: good academic standing, shows traits of responsibility, highly spirit of volunteerism, has a relevant major to their mentees, good tutoring skills and good time management skills. The applicants pass through a round of interviews after which they are given a workshop on how to be an effective mentor. Many LAU students applied for the opportunity to be a mentor and 47.6 % of the accepted mentors are USP scholars. The program has enabled USP scholars to be highly successful individuals in throughout their university years thus preparing them well for their future.



USP I scholars during the mentors' program workshop presented by the Assistant Vice President for Outreach and Civic Engagement.

2.4 Community Projects

<i>“Plan Your Future”</i>				
Location: Machghara, Beqaa District				
Date: Saturday, 7 th March, 2015				
Scholars’ Information				
Scholar Name	Cohort	Public School	Residency	Major
201102***	USP I	Machghara High School	Machghara, Beqaa District	Computer Engineering
Purpose of Project				
<p>The aim of this community project is to prepare Machghara’s high school students for university by giving them a presentation about the various things they need to know. The reason 201102*** chose this to be her community project is because in a small community like Machghara one can barely find any activities addressing youth. This causes the youth to lose passion and motivation due to their very dormant surrounding.</p> <p>She was one of them and thanks to the USP, she wants to pay what was given to her forward by raising awareness about the benefits of education and how to enroll in the right university. 201102*** visited four different sections of grade 12 (LS and LH English and French). She was able to relate to them by informing them of her own experience in the USP program.</p> <p>She assisted them in their search for a suitable major by posing the following statements as inquiries:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Assess or evaluate your interests. What are your passions?2) Take an honest and confident look at your unique strengths and abilities.3) Research the major you want and learn from live examples of Engineering, architecture, nursing, nutrition, literature...4) Career Conditions vs Personality preferences				



USP I scholar 201102 implementing her community project***

<i>“University Preparation-A Quick Guide”</i>				
Location: Bterram, El Koura, North Lebanon				
Date: Monday, 21 April, 2015				
Scholars’ Information				
Scholar Name	Cohort	Public School	Residency	Major
201101***	USP I	The High School of Bterram	Bterram, El Koura, North Lebanon	Civil Engineering
Purpose of Project				
<p>The aim of this community project is to prepare Bterram’s high school students for university by giving them a presentation about the various things they need to know. The school principle allowed 201101*** to execute the presentation in five high school classes: 11th Grade Scientific English section, 12th Grade Literature and Humanities both English and French sections and Sociology and Economics both English and French sections. The presentation was done in English for the English classes and in Arabic for the French classes. As for the logistics, some of the classes did not have a projector for the presentation so it was previewed on the laptop.</p> <p>The incentives that made 201101*** pursue choose this as a community project in particular are the following:</p> <p>The fact that she was that student chosen from her high school Bterram for the USAID University Scholarship Program (USP)</p> <p>Realizing that even her teachers and school principle did not know the particulars of the scholarship she acquired</p> <p>Seeing that a significant number of her high school colleagues ended up not going to university</p> <p>Knowing that most of the students in public high schools do not know about the financial aid</p> <p>Knowing that most of the students do not know about majors and careers</p> <p>The aforementioned were discussed in her presentation through the following titles: The Importance of Education, University Exploration, How to Pay for Tuition fees?, University (LAU), Introduction to USAID – USP, Building Your Resume, Extra-Curricular Activities, University Applications, Career Exploration and Market Demand.</p>				



USP I scholar 201101* presenting the “University Preparation- A Quick Guide” presentation**

“LAU One Day Public School Initiative”				
Location: Official Intermediate School of Baalback				
Date: May 2, 2015				
Scholars’ Information				
Scholar Name	Cohort	Public School	Residency	Major
201305***	USP I	Official School of Douris	Baalback	Chemistry
Purpose of Project				
The purpose of the project is for the three scholars to give back to their community in terms of education benefit by preparing Grade 9 students for high results of success in their exams. They are using the expertise they have acquired in teaching and giving reinforcement programs so that the students of their hometown can aspire to a better future. They will be teaching the subjects of biology, chemistry and physics.				
Project Phases				
Phase I		Phase II		
In Official Intermediate School of Baalbeck, the three scholars alternated together in the teaching of the subjects of Biology, Chemistry and Physics. The students received support booklets and the program of the day included lunch break and mingling with the students.		In the afternoon, the students with their trainers headed to the playground of the school in order to attend the closing ceremony of the project which included distribution of certificates and testimonies from scholars.		



Reinforcement session

"We Care"

Location: Sidon Orphan Welfare Society and Outreach & Leadership Academy (OLA)

Date: May 29th, 2015

Scholars' Information

Scholar Name	Cohort	Public School	Residency	Major
201304***	USP I	Official School of Saida For Girls	Saida	Mathematics
201305***	USP I	Official School of Furn el Chebbak	Beirut	Business

Purpose of Project

USP I scholars implemented their community development project under the theme "We Care". Aiming at drawing a smile on the faces of the orphans, the scholars spent an educational day on May 29, 2015 at the Sidon Orphan Welfare Society (in Saida-South). The scholars provided educational support in the subjects of Biology, Math and Chemistry during their morning session to students from Grade 6, 7 and 8. Simultaneously, another group of students engaged with grade 3, 4 and 5 students around teamwork and communication skills. In the afternoon, the students provided educational and interactive learning activities. A closing ceremony, on which the distribution of certificates took place, was held at LAU's newly inaugurated center in Saida "OLA" which is in partnership with Hariri Foundation for Sustainable Human Development.



USP I scholars 201304 and 201305*** in a group picture with the children during the closing ceremony***

<i>“UNICEF Challenge: Swifit Project”</i>				
Location: Lebanese American University				
Date: Thursday, 6 August, 2015				
Scholars' Information				
Scholar Name	Cohort	Public School	Residency	Major
201101***	USP I	Official School of Dhour Shweir	Metn	Mechanical Engineering
Purpose of Project				
<p>People in rural zones around the world, especially in Africa, are striving to survive each and every day. They live in remote areas, where there are no hospitals, nutrition, infrastructure, or dedicated personnel to serve their needs. There is a very high rate of illiteracy making new technologies not easily adaptable. Moreover, in times of emergencies, people don't have access to supplies that meet their urgent needs. For instance, an urgent vaccination to an infant can't be delivered on time and easily in Africa. Because of the lack of resources, villagers walk for miles and miles to bring water back to their hometown. USP I scholar wants to help solve this problem across the world.</p> <p>The “UNICEF Challenge: Swifit Project” was inspired by “MatterNet” is a project that is trying to create the next paradigm for transportation using networks of small unmanned flying vehicles. USP I scholar 201101*** chose to extend the “MatterNet” project and add new features to increase the overall efficiency and performance (charging stations, fast response, less</p>				

volunteers...) for his community project. 201101*** with the help of a mechanical engineer student at LAU, created a solution titled Swifit. They are creating a flight delivery system that can deliver urgent needs to remote areas during a small amount of time. Using a programmed quad-copter, the device can hold up to 2 kilograms and deliver the package to the recipient.

For the time being, 201101***s' team created a proof of concept that shows their work. They have participated for two years in a row in the UNICEF challenge. Last year they didn't win because they didn't have a working prototype. This year an innovation specialist at UNICEF, Lebanon, and a judge in the UNICEF challenge told us that he has never seen a project similar to Swifit in the world and that UNICEF might be interested in testing their project in Tanzania.



Quad-copter prototype

<i>"Chess is not a game, it is a way of life"</i>				
Location: Outreach & Leadership Academy				
Date: Saturday, 19 th September, 2015				
Scholars' Information				
Scholar Name	Cohort	Public School	Residency	Major
201102***	USP I	Official Secondary School of Bar Elias	Zahle Aradi	Computer Engineering
Purpose of Project				
<p>The aim of this community project is to prepare students of the following high schools: RHHS, Saida Generation School, Sidon Official Secondary School for Boys, Al-Ofoq School, NEIGB, and Hajj Bahaa School, for university by teaching them how to plan. The target audience consisted of 25 students between the ages of 12 and 13 years old from various high schools. The workshop took place on Saturday, 19th September from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. It was intercepted to include a one hour chess activity and a hour lunch break.</p> <p>USP I scholar 201102*** organized and presented the workshop focusing on the themes of time management and planning. The idea was to teach the students that planning for life aids them in their long term goal and gives them direction. Chess was used as the underlying metaphor, as it is so much like life. You can never know what your opponent's moves will be but you can plan for all possibilities to cut down any losses and reap your gains.</p>				

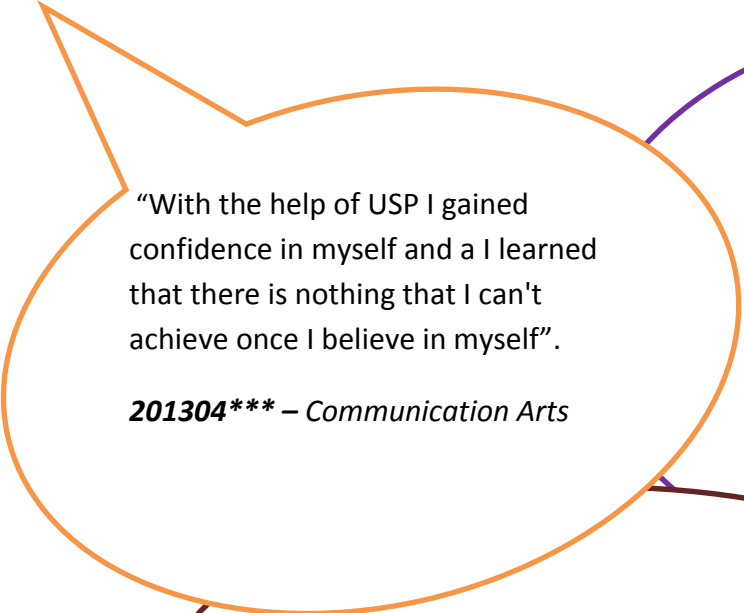


*USP I scholar 201102*** presenting his workshop to high school students*



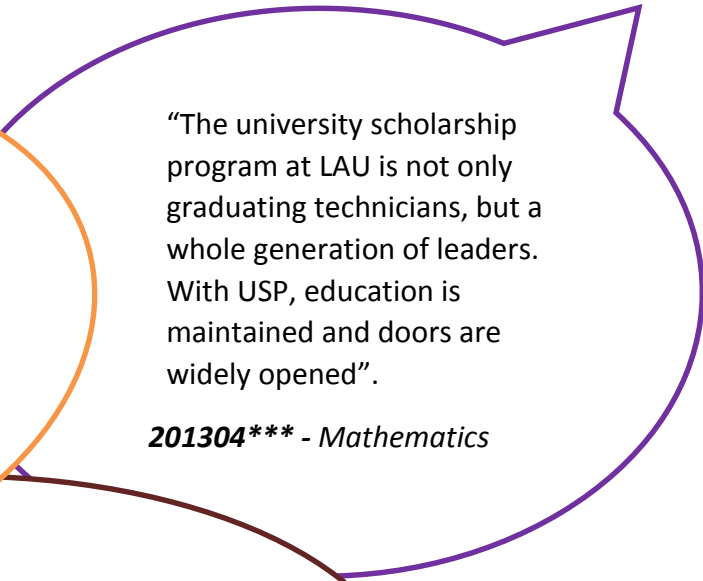
*High school students enjoying a game of chess with USP I scholar 201102****

III. Quotes from Scholars



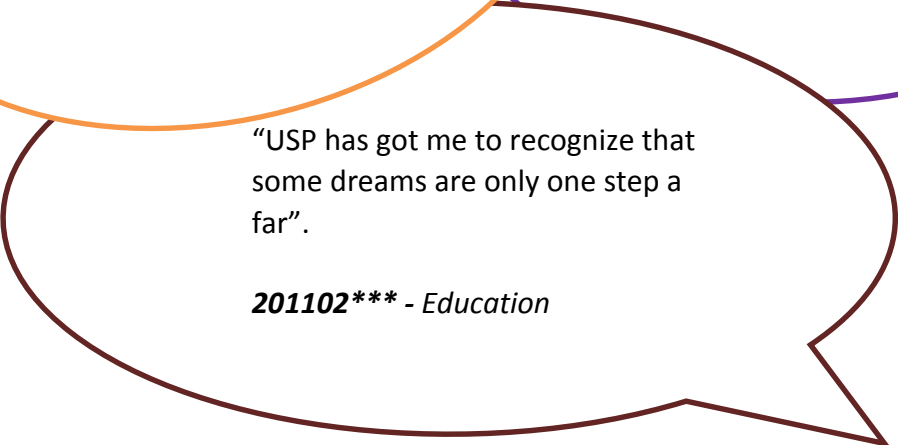
"With the help of USP I gained confidence in myself and a I learned that there is nothing that I can't achieve once I believe in myself".

201304*** – *Communication Arts*



"The university scholarship program at LAU is not only graduating technicians, but a whole generation of leaders. With USP, education is maintained and doors are widely opened".

201304*** - *Mathematics*



"USP has got me to recognize that some dreams are only one step a far".

201102*** - *Education*

IV. Appendix I

Mentors List

ID	# mentored
201305***	3
201304***	
201102***	
201304***	1
201102***	3
201304***	
201304***	
201305***	3
201305***	
201304***	
201102***	5
201102***	
201102***	
201102***	
201100***	
201305***	1